

# COUNTYWIDE TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM

## *UPDATE - July, 2001*

### **Charter Member migration reaches halfway mark**

Approximately half of the planned initial trunked system user radios are now in the hands of charter members. Roughly 1600 approximate 3000 radios of the initial system complement have been programmed and placed in operation, or are currently being phased in. Current plans call for all radios to be completed during 2001.

Of the eight participating dispatch centers, four are now transmitting on the trunked system, with work progressing on the remainder. Several of the centers have opted to take advantage of the trunked system's enhanced talkgroup capacity and are purchasing additional equipment to permit them to dispatch on more channels than is currently possible.

To facilitate a smooth transition from existing systems to trunked operation, many larger systems have been temporarily configured for dual operation, allowing dispatching to occur in tandem on both the older conventional VHF or UHF systems as well as new trunked system. The interim "bridges" are removed after cutover is completed and the implementation has been determined to be successful.

### **Second round of radio user trainings planned**

The second of four rounds of "train the trainer" sessions is planned for August 28-29, 2001. The trainings, conducted by a professional instructor from Motorola, Inc., are designed to permit charter member trainers to teach trunked system basics and radio operation to individual users. There are two separate sessions: one revolves around the MTS-2000 and MCS-2000 model radios, while the other centers on the LTS-2000 and LCS-2000 models. A feature of the sessions is that attendees are provided with training materials such as instructor guides and overhead transparencies. Individual custom user guides and reference cards are also distributed.

Current users who did not attend the April 3-4 sessions, as well as users who will be converted to trunked operation in the near future, will be invited.

### **"Factory Mutual" rated portable radios made available to FDs**

At the request of several Fire Departments, "Factory Mutual" rated handheld radios have been made available to fire agencies as part of the initial order for Charter Members. FM-rated radios and batteries are certified for enhanced safety when used in certain specific hazardous atmospheres.

While the Fire Departments' request for the FM-certified radios was not made until after many radios had already been received for implementation, Waukesha County worked with Motorola to make the radios available to Fire agencies if desired. The option was also made available to fire departments whose radios had already been received.

A request form was faxed to each remaining Fire Department in mid-July, **with responses due by July 24**; departments have been given the option to change any or all of their radios to FM-certified status. Since the financed radio costs and counts were finalized last year, the incremental costs to change radio orders to the FM-certified models will be billed to each department on a net 30 day basis. Note that FM-rated radios also require FM-approved replacement batteries, which are more expensive than non-rated batteries.

There are two separate Factory Mutual ratings as established by National Fire Protection (NFPA) Standards. Fire Departments were given the choice of options, or could leave their order unchanged. The options and per-unit costs offered are:

<u>Radio Model</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Cost</u>
MTS-2000	Intrinsically Safe	\$67
MTS-2000	Non-Incendive	67
LTS-2000	Intrinsically Safe/ Non-Incendive	95

*MTS-2000 users may choose only one of the two available options for their radios. The LTS-2000 radio incorporates both the Intrinsically Safe and Non-Incendive rating in a single option.*

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